to No 98. I saw another number altered but was prevented from investigating any further - Mr Bradford still sustained the weighers saying that the alteration of numbers had nothing to do with the Assayers Reports although you well know that the assayer makes his Register which must correspond with the Nos of the Register

89 Copy
Assay Office
Mar 24/59
Dec

of the Treasury the weigh-book & the Melter & Refiners books; I have stated the matter & leave you to draw your Conclusions. - I can have but one opinion and that is that the weighers intended to defraud which I told them,

[redacted]

I remain Your Obt & faithful Svt.
James Maxwell M.R.

RG56 Entry 289 Maxwell complaint deposits 89

Branch of the Mint of the U. States
New Orleans April 24. 1839

Doctor R. M. Patterson
Director of the US. Mint,
Sir.

I am under the necessity of making known to you a serious difficulty which has occured this morning in the mint; — And request your opinion as upon it rests my determination of remaining here or not. — On the 16th inst. two deposites were made, the first deposite consisting of hammered dollars and french crowns of two numbers; — the second deposite of mexican dollars, supposed to be about two Hundred. — The first deposite, one No. of 321 ozs & the other of 110 ozs were melted, but the mexican coin were retained by the Treasurer to be reported or without melting, agreeably to an understanding with the Superintendent, (who is the acting Treasurer,) and who informed me that it was consistant with the views of the Assayer, - the quality being fully ascertained, having previously melted a large number of small deposits of mexican-coin, - and also as it was the usage of the principal mint. — I had received some bullion from the Weigher the day these deposites were made and had been in the practice of receiving them as soon as reported, that I might use them with the clippings, being out of bullion. — When I again received bullion from the Weigher which was in a day or

two after. I found among the assayers reports one of number 98 corresponding in weight and quality to the deposite of Mexican dollars referred to. I remarked to the weigher that No 98 was not among the parcels of bullion in the weigh-room: he said I had received it or had it and went off. After convincing myself that it was not the case, I informed the treasurer of it and refused to take the bullion then in the weigh room, until the difficulty was adjusted. — On examination I found that some of the names of the depositors ~~had~~ were not on the weigh book & then discovered that two pages had been torn out, and the numbers altered in such a way as to produce the greatest confusion. — I immediately requested of the Superintendent that an investigation be made before all the Officers, knowing that if left to himself it would be passed by without any action. — Mr Bradford agreed to my request but postponed it until the following day: On the following morning I called on him accordingly but he positively refused to have any of the Officers present after consulting with Dr Hart who declined having any thing to do with it. I then proposed that Mr Gordon be present but that he also refused. — He then commenced an examination of the books and the bullion on hand, also the person who melts the deposits. — The weigher still insisted that the deposite in question had been melted & assayed but proposed to make it up. — Mr Bradford was

determined to sustain him although the leaves had been removed from the book of original entries, & the numbers altered, and the young man who melted the deposites was positive no. 98 had not been melted, as he keeps a memorandum of the date, & number on a slate in the melting room — As the deposite in question had been reported on and the Assayer said he had not reported on any bullion not melted, I must confess I was brought to my wits end — Mr Bradford then offered to give me an Official letter clearing me from all blame, although he said he believed the deposite melted & Assayed but in some way lost, — A letter of that kind might have satisfyed me 12 mos ago, but I have seen so much of this kind of work in the mint, that I was determined not to let it pass so easily. — In the evening Mr Bradford informed me that Dr Hoot had made some investigation by assaying the bullion on hand &c. and was satisfyed I was correct in what I contended for that the bullion had not been melted. — As the matter weighed a good deal on my mind, the following morning I was induced to examine more closely the assayers reports and found a clue to the whole affair — The numbers had been changed on the reports to answer to the nos. on the weigh-book No 100 had been changed to 98 the deposite in dispute, he had filled up a blank with the weight &c of deposit No 98 numbering it 100 & when returned altered it

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89 Papers
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Succession
1854
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